General Assembly

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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 64 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/63/430/Add.2)]

63/244. Committee on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of the Child[1] and the Optional Protocols thereto,[2]

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention[3] and the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child,[4]

1. *Notes*, while welcoming the entry into force of the Optional Protocols[2] to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1] that a backlog of more than eighty reports exists related to the submission by States parties of their initial reports under the Optional Protocols in conformity with their obligations, and notes with concern that if this backlog is not addressed, it will impede the ability of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to consider reports in a timely manner, and in this regard takes note of the request of the Committee to meet in parallel chambers to address this backlog in an effective and timely manner;

2. *Decides*, as an exceptional and temporary measure, to authorize the Committee to meet in parallel chambers, of nine members each, for ten working days of each of its three regular sessions and the five working days of each of its three pre-sessional working group meetings between October 2009 and October 2010, for the purposes of considering the reports of the States parties submitted under article 44 of the Convention, article 8 of the Optional Protocol thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict[5] and article 12 of the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[6] taking due account of equitable geographical distribution and the principal legal systems;

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[2] Ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

[3] A/63/160.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/63/41).

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2173, No. 27531.

[6] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

3. *Also decides* to assess the situation regarding the meeting time of the Committee at its sixty-fifth session on the basis of an evaluation made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, taking into account a more comprehensive approach towards the backlog of human rights treaty bodies and the increasing number of reports of States parties to the human rights conventions;

4. *Requests* the Committee to intensify its review of its working methods in order to enhance the efficiency and quality of its proceedings, with the aim of achieving timely consideration of reports submitted by States parties, and also requests the Committee to review and assess its progress in order to provide an update on this question in its report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session and inputs to the evaluation to be made by the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the wider context of treaty body reform.

74th plenary meeting
24 December 2008